
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 820 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY BROWN, RAVENSTAHL, BIZZARRO, MADDEN, PICKETT,
SCHLEGEL CULVER, DONATUCCI, KULIK, SCHMITT, FREEMAN, BOBACK,
LONGIETTI, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, MURT, KORTZ, THOMAS, BURNS,
HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, KIM, MACKENZIE, READSHAW, McCLINTON,
MILLARD, OWLETT, BROOKS, NEILSON, SAYLOR, SAINATO, GAINEY,
B. MILLER, KINSEY, WARREN, DEASY AND CONKLIN, MARCH 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 13, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of November 2020 as "Carbon Monoxide
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is produced by furnaces, common
4 household appliances, vehicles, generators, fireplaces and other
5 systems that are powered by the burning of fuel, including
6 natural gas, propane, gasoline, oil and wood; and

7 WHEREAS, November is the best time to raise awareness for
8 carbon monoxide poisoning as the threat of exposure increases as
9 people stay indoors and burn more fuel to heat their homes
10 during the winter months; and

11 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is known as "the silent killer"
12 because it is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poisonous gas
13 that can be fatal when inhaled; and

14 WHEREAS, A 2007 study by the Centers for Disease Control and
15 Prevention found that Pennsylvania leads the nation in
16 accidental carbon monoxide poisoning deaths; and

1 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has
2 determined that carbon monoxide claims approximately 50 lives
3 each year and that carbon monoxide exposure sends more than
4 20,000 people to emergency rooms annually; and

5 WHEREAS, The Mayo Clinic has determined that 51% of all
6 carbon monoxide poisoning cases reported involve children six
7 years of age or younger; and

8 WHEREAS, The Consumer Product Safety Commission has
9 determined that older adults more frequently have preexisting
10 health conditions that affect the heart, lungs and circulatory
11 system, and the presence of one or more of these conditions
12 lowers a victim's tolerance and increases the risk of fatal
13 carbon monoxide exposure; and

14 WHEREAS, A January 2006 article in the *Journal of the*
15 *American Medical Association* showed that, for individuals who
16 were involved in carbon monoxide poisoning and survived, there
17 was a threefold increase in coronary artery disease seven years
18 later when compared with patients who were not poisoned; and

19 WHEREAS, The Carbon Monoxide Safety Association has
20 determined that the combined medical cost of carbon monoxide
21 accidents, lost productivity and lost wages amounts to \$8.8
22 billion per year; and

23 WHEREAS, Public education and awareness about carbon monoxide
24 poisonings are critical to protecting residents of this
25 Commonwealth from the dangers of this deadly gas and the risk
26 factors in the home; and

27 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide alarms are the most effective way to
28 detect carbon monoxide; and

29 WHEREAS, There is a dramatic correlation between cities with
30 carbon monoxide alarm ordinances and lower death rates from

1 carbon monoxide poisoning; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
3 month of November 2020 as "Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month" in
4 Pennsylvania.